

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 2341

FOR PRESIDENTIAL PARTY

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO LIBERIA: ADDITIONAL BRIEFING POINTS

REFS: (A) MONROVIA 1956 (B) MONROVIA 1988 (C) MONROVIA 2139
(D) MONROVIA 2287

SUMMARY: THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT AT THE FIRST
CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY, PRESIDENT CARTER EXPRESS
TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH MARCH 29
OF HIS NEPHEW RICHELIEU W. DENNIS, AND CONCERN OVER
THE CONDITION OF HIS BROTHER, SENATOR FRANK TOLBERT,
SERIOUSLY INJURED MARCH 26 IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT. WE
RECOMMEND ALSO THAT THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MATTER RAISED
WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT SHOULD BE OUR CONGRATUATIONS
OVER THE SUCCESS OF THE SIX-NATION RECONCILIATION SUMMIT
(GUINEA, IVORY COAST, SENEGAL, TOGO, THE GAMBIA AND
LIBERIA) HELD IN MONROVIA MARCH 18 - 19 UNDER
PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S AUSPICES. END SUMMARY.

1. DEATH OF RICHELIEU W. DENNIS: THE EMBASSY
RECOMMENDS THAT THE PRESIDENT, AT THE FIRST CONVENIENT
OPPORTUNITY DURING THE VISIT TO MONROVIA, EXPRESS TO
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PRESIDENT TOLBERT HIS CONDOLENCES FOR THE DEATH (FROM
CANCER MARCH 29) OF HIS NEPHEW, RICHELIEU W. DENNIS.
DENNIS, 35-YEAR-OLD AND A FAVORITE OF THE PRESIDENT,
WAS THE SON OF THE PRESIDENT'S SISTER ELFRIEDA. HE HAD
BEEN ILL OVER ONE YEAR, AND BEEN HOSPITALIZED FOR
RADIATION TREATMENTS AT JOHNS HOPKINS. DENNIS OBTAINED
A B.SC. DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM NORTH

CAROLINA COLLEGE, DURHAM; AND A M.S. IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM MIAMI UNIVERSITY, OXFORD, OHIO. IN 1965 HE JOINED THE U.S.-BASED INTERNATIONAL TRUST COMPANY OF LIBERIA (INTRUSCO), LARGEST MARINE UNDERWRITERS IN LIBERIA, AND ROSE IN 11 YEARS FROM ASSISTANT DEPUTY UNDERWRITER TO PRESIDENT OF THE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AFRICA, AN AFFILIATE OF INTRUSCO. HE THUS REPRESENTED THE NEW GENERATION OF TRAINED ADMINISTRATORS AND ENTREPRENEURS ON WHICH LIBERIA MUST DEPEND FOR ITS ACCELERATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. PRESIDENT TOLBERT WAS PROUD OF HIS NEPHEW'S ACHIEVEMENT AND HAS BEEN DEEPLY SADDENED BY HIS DEATH. THE WAKE AND FUNERAL WILL TAKE PLACE APRIL 1 AND 2 AND OCCUPY MUCH OF THE TIME OF THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER RELATIVES OF DENNIS OVER THE WEEKEND.

2. FRANK TOLBERT'S AUTO ACCIDENT: THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT ALONG WITH THE ABOVE CONDOLENCES THE PRESIDENT EXPRESS CONCERN FOR THE HEALTH OF PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S ELDER BROTHER, FRANK, WHO WAS INJURED SERIOUSLY IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT MARCH 26. FRANK TOLBERT, A SENATOR AND PRESIDENT PRO-TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, SUFFERED AGGRAVATED SCALP LACERATIONS AND MULTIPLE FRACTURES. HE WAS EVACUATED MARCH 29 TO LONDON FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

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3. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MATTER RAISED BY THE PRESIDENT BE CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT FOR HIS ROLE IN ARRANGING A SIX-NATION RECONCILIATION SUMMIT AMONG THE WEST AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE OF GUINEA, SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, TOGO, THE GAMBIA AND LIBERIA IN MONROVIA MARCH 18 -19 (REFTELS A, B, AND C). FOR YEARS TOLBERT HAS WORKED TO AMELIORATE THE TENSE RELATIONS BETWEEN SEKOU TOURE, GUINEA'S BLOC-LEANING PRESIDENT, AND WESTER-ORIENTED PRESIDENTS LEOPOLD SENGHOR (SENEGAL) AND HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY (IVORY COAST) NOTING TOURE'S OWN DECLARED INTENTIONS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL AND AND IVORY COAST, TOLBERT PERSUADED THE THREE TO MEET IN MONROVIA WHERE, IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, THEY ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTION DO END "ALL DISSENSIONS WHICH HAVE AFFECTED THEIR RELATIONS". PRESIDENT EYADEMA OF TOGO AND PRESIDENT JAWARA OF THE GAMBIA ATTENDED THE SIX-NATION SUMMIT TO EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE RECONCILIATION.

4. FINALLY, WE NOTE THAT THE PROPOSED TOAST TO TBE

MADE BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PRESIDENT
TOLBERT CALLS FOR A MENTION OF THE RECENT VISITS TO
MONROVIA OF TOURE AND GENERAL OBASANJO. IN VIEW OF
THE SIX-NATION SUMMIT, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING IN
SUBSTITUTION FOR PARAGRAPH BEGINNING "THE RECENT
VISITS..." AND ENDING "HORN OF AFRICA":

BEGIN TEXT

THE RECENT SIX-NATION SUMMIT HELD IN MONROVIA AMONG
LIBERIA, THE GAMBIA, GUINEA, IVORY COAST, SENEGAL AND
TOGO ILLUSTRATES THE DYNAMIC DIPLOMATIC AND PEACE-
MAKING ROLE BEING PLAYED IN AFRICA BY PRESIDENT
TOLBERT. HE HAS WORKED TIRELESSLY FOR NATONAL SELF-
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DETERMINATION, RACIAL JUSTICE AND A BETTER LIFE FOR
ALL ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. I AM CONFIDENT THAT
LIBERIA, A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, A
FOUNDER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND A
MEMBER OF THE OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION FOR A PEACEFUL
RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, WILL
CONTINUE TO BE AN IMPORTANT FORCE FOR PEACE
IN THE WORLD.
END TEXT
CARTER

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